

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

September 9, 2010

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: Mayor Kasprzak

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on September 2, 2010 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending September 8, 2010 in the amount of \$ 271,214.80 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of September 2 - September 8, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from August 30 – September 7, 2010

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 451,586.99 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Chris Dumont of The Green Room to host an outside music festival from 5 pm until 9 pm on Saturday, September 25, 2010 closing Upper Bridge Street Friday, September 24th for set up and Saturday, September 25th for the event.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration “Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD to award Bid No. 2010-7-2 “Wall Street Substation Commissioning” to Electric Power Systems, Inc in the total amount of \$5,585.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that Bid No. 2010-7-2 “Wall Street Substation Commissioning” be awarded to Electric Power Systems, Inc in the total amount of \$5,585.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves one Police Officer to attend the “National District Attorneys Drug Seminar and conference” from September 11 – 16, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. There will be no cost to the City as the DEA will pay all expenses related to this training.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion:

Councilor Rabideau said the DEA is paying for this and the District Attorney’s office is sending an Assistant District Attorney to this along with our Police Officer.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Richard Perry Building Inspector and Claude Bouchard Municipal Code Inspector to attend the “New York State Building Code Officials Conference” from October 18-20, 2010 in Albany, NY. This conference provides mandatory training hours to retain Code Enforcement Certification, the cost not to exceed \$1,036.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Officers to attend the “Advanced Crash Management Course” from September 12 – 17, 2010 in Hudson, NY. The cost will not exceed \$1227.95 and will be paid out of Asset Forfeiture Fund (Treasury Funds).

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD to award Bid No. 2010-7-2 “Wall Street Substation Commissioning” to Electric Power Systems, Inc in the total amount of \$5,585. **(Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter B)**
2. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD to attend the “IEEP’s Annual Meeting” from September 30 - October 1, 2010 in East Syracuse, NY. The cost will not exceed \$224.
3. Request from Fire Chief Paul Williams to attend the “New York State Career Chiefs Meeting” in Cortland, NY on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The cost will not exceed \$350.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Jackson as Board President of the Municipal Lighting Department he would like to comment on the City School Districts proposal to add a 3% sales tax on Utility bills. Two years ago there was quite a fight on the future of the Municipal Lighting Department and staffing levels. After the initial situation in the last 2 years they have pulled the Municipal Lighting Department out of the basement and they did it with hard work, cutting expenses and unfortunately they had to cut some staff. For another taxing jurisdiction to add a sales tax on to a Utility run by the City or by the Board of Directors of the Municipal Lighting Department, he thinks it is unfair to the rate payers of the City of Plattsburgh. He will attend the Public Hearing if he is available and speak to that issue.

Councilor Carpenter stated they searched and talked back and forth about the rate increase and whether they were going to take it and the fact that they needed to keep the Utility whole and to make it healthy. They heard from a lot of industry people, corporations and residents about how they didn’t want the rates raised. They had to raise the rates because we needed to keep that Utility whole. This is going to be a rate increase that is not going to help the Utility in any way, shape or form. There will be nothing coming back to us. He is against it and doesn’t think it is a good idea.

Councilor Valentine it would be nice if they could come and have a conversation with us here about the City’s Utility, but, she is not sure that is going to happen. But it might be nice to extend them an invitation to do that. She wondered what Mr. La Capra would have to say about that since they spent an awful lot of time discussing with him this very thing.

Councilor Jackson if this gets passed by the school board and there is a 3% increase on a person’s bill. The next time we have want to have a rate increase even if it is a minor one just to cover these new charges they have been throwing at us, we have been absorbing them with “PPAC” in that number it is just going to compound it more. He understands a piece of their logic but not much of it. It is our Utility.

Councilor Rabideau said that is a main attraction of living in the City of Plattsburgh is our low cost electrical rates. For years they have shied away from increasing the electricity rates cost we held off, we made the tough decisions in the last 2 years. It isn’t coming through our Board of Directors and President.

Councilor Valentine said they don't have the authority to speak on the issue.

Councilor Calnon his reaction to it rather quickly was the people who are enthusiastically supporting the idea but they didn't know who it was going to hit and how to you generate that kind of support without knowing the facts. He shares all of their concerns and if you saw the newspaper today so does the **Mayor**.

Councilor Jackson hopes everyone enjoys the Battle of Plattsburgh.

Councilor Calnon said Division Street should re-open tomorrow. He wanted to thank Glens Falls National Bank for the courtesy they extended they allowed the Division Street traffic to use their parking lot.

Councilor Carpenter asked how long Steltzer will be closed. **Department of Public Works Superintendent Mike Brodi** said they will be paving tomorrow.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:42 pm